

Express Mail Label No. _____ Dated: _____

Docket No.: 09450/0204353-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Toyoaki Yokohara

Application No.: National Phase of
PCT/JP2004/016980

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: BALL JOINT AND BEARING SEAT
THEREOF

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

MS PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement accompanies the new patent application submitted herewith.

A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language documents is enclosed.

Applicant submits herewith copies of foreign and non-patents in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2).

A concise explanation of relevance of the items listed on form PTO/SB/08 is in the form of an English language copy of a Search Report from a foreign patent office, issued in a counterpart application, which refers to the relevant portions of the references.

A concise explanation of the relevance of document BC can be found on page 1 of the specification.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(a) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: June 6, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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Attorneys/Agents For Applicant

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|---|---|----|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/USPTO | | | | Complete If Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary) | | | | Application Number | Not Yet Assigned |
| | | | | Filing Date | Concurrently Herewith |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Toyoaki Yokohara |
| | | | | Art Unit | N/A |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Not Yet Assigned |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 1 | Attorney Doctel Number | 09450/0204353-US0 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
| | | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
| | BA | JP-2003-507665-A | 02-25-2003 | ZF Lemforder Metallwaren AG | | |
| | BB | JP-48-72551-A | 09-29-1973 | Tokai TRW Kabushiki Kaisha | | |
| | BC | JP-2000-230540-A | 08-22-2000 | Somic Ishikawa: KK | | √ |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 606. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Code of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Error Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------|--|
| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume/issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ² | |
| | CA | Priorit Abstracts of Japan for JP2000-230540 published August 22, 2000. | | |
| | CB | International Search Report for PCT/JP2004/016960 mailed January 25, 2005. | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 508. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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